

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 28, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 28, 1845.

My Dear General, You will have seen in the Globe of last night the happy result of the Texas struggle in the Senate. It has had a most excellent influence on the feelings of the Democratic party. It will produce a much more perfect union than could have attended the success of either measure seperately. It was fortunate too that Foster abandoned his own and Milton Brown's plan, 1 for if they secured the merit of having in earnest advocated the admission of Texas it would have maintained Whig popularity in Tennesse[e] for some time to come. In abandoning their own scheme, they throw suspicion on their sincerity and their Resolutions have lost the favor of the Democracy which now rests on Bentons appended Bill with entire confidence; and which in the end proving to be the most acceptable to Texas and our own Executive will become the efficient measure and bring back to the Democracy the exclusive honor of restoring Texas to the union.

1 Resolution proposed Jan. 13, 1845, by Milton Brown, a Tennessee Whig. E. H. Foster, another Tennessee Whig, made a similar proposal.

The Bill as passed in the senate is this moment undergoing its first reading, and now at the close of the reading the whole whig party has risen in uproar to defeat it. It is evident that Federalism has resolved if it be possible, to prevent the admission by every species of chicane. It is understood that the call of the yeas and nays upon every cavil, question

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or order, appeals from the decision thereon and all modes of procrastination that can be made are to be resorted to. The previous question stops their mouths from debate but on any opinion there is no villainy or even violence to which they will not resort to arrest the passage of the Bill. They hope if it can be staid for the present Session that they will be able to agitate the North and whip up a sort of revolutionary phrenzy on the Slave question among the fanatics aided by Federalism to fright the Northern Democracy from their propriety. You will have seen from the Globe that I have labored constantly to prevent the delays. But our party has been too supine; and now as there are only two days and a half left Whiggery it seems, suppose that they can spend these few remaining sands of the session, by calling ayes and nays. Their process so far is to start any thing no matter what as a point of order, to appeal from the decision of the Speaker and call the yeas and nays—every call takes an half an hour—so that if the House sits every hour from this until the end of the Session, it will take only 160 such motions as are going on now to bring the Session to a close. I am satisfied now that the federal party has resolved upon this course which is perfectly revolutionary, being a perversion of the uses of the House altogether from their purpose and converting them into the means of defeating the action of Congress entirely. I suppose they hope by this means to compel the President to call an Extra Session. The last yeas and nays they have had was on a motion to lay on the table the Texas Resolutions. The vote 0399 375 stood 59 to 120 a majority of sixty one. This is not far from the majority in favor of annexation in the House and yet we have this miserable minority resorting to a mode of defeating the majority, which if tolerated would only be a subversion altogether of the power of congress to legislate at all. They have now a call of the yeas and nays on a motion for a call of the House, and so they go. Such is Whiggery or coonery!!

I congratulate you, Dear General, on the success of the great question which you put in action and the deliverance of your true friends from the false position in which they were unfortunately placed by not following your counsels. My instinct was right and if Mr. Van Buren had followed the advice I gave him from my sick bed, in writing his famous letter

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he would [have] been chosen president by a vast majority. But it may be that all is for the best.

I have not seen the President elect for several days. He is so overrun with company that I do not like to intrude. Some of his friends think he would be incumbered by my help. They did not think so before the election; and he will hardly think so now. yo. af. friend